

Spring PAC Meeting Notes

Tuesday April 5th, 2016

Participants: Heather Burke, Stacy Sigman, Allen Gwinn, Allison Walker, Heath Kruger, Taylor Johnson, Titus Hardiman

Miriam Fleming called in for sections

Raystown Lake Partners – overview by Allen

- Handshake in process: skills park, working with friends group
- \$100,000 in timber sales annually, invested back into ES projects
- 5 handshake projects
- Working on pollinator species habitat
- 2 concessionaires, marinas, largest in Pennsylvania, each earn \$2-3 million a year, one has lodging and a convention center, partner with marina when possible
- visitor bureau staff is a cooperating association that runs the visitors center
- Friends of Raystown Lake is other cooperating association

Telling the Corps Partnership Story

- OMB Reporting- \$55 million in partner estimated value... Concerned that OMB may want to cut our budget because of this. Discussed ways can we present the data to show how the Corps is providing benefits to the community and public rather than what the partners are doing for the Corps. Ideas:
 - OMBIL sections to input miles of trails created, parks kept open, acres improved, etc...
 - Data call to divisions to tell us their partners stories
 - At the district level - list what was able to be accomplished with partners. Present it from the angle that we are saving money by using volunteers instead of contractors or Corps staff
 - A comparison of how much a contractor would cost to how much value the volunteer provided.
 - Create a section in OMBIL that asks how much would it cost a project to have a contract doing the things your volunteers and partners are doing
 - Feed them the questions in OMBIL
 - 1) What would this service cost from a contractor?
 - 2) Add second section to describe “What did you do that couldn’t be done without the partners or volunteers?” Example: this partnership provided trails that wouldn’t exist without them, the campground wouldn’t have stayed open, the local economy benefitted \$\$”
 - 3) Third column- “Monetary value saved to government for this labor (think of the cost of supplies and your time as fully burdened rate)”

PAC team budget

Potential changes if funding is cut in 2017:

- Merge Fall PAC meeting into fall PROSPECT course, having a full meeting day on Friday and rotating throughout the week as instructors.
- Keeping EIP and Spring Meeting. Travel on one weekend day to add another day to the meeting.
- Cut funding for Legends and Beacon award winners

Cooperating Association Toolkit

- Raised concerns in HQ because it was written as the Corps taking on a lot of the leg work for developing an association. **Heather will edit the document to turn the focus so the Corps foundation is the owner and publisher of document.** Tone will be changed to be coming from the perspective of the Corps Foundation as one partner giving guidance to another.

FY 17 Prospect Class

- Oct 31- Nov 4 2016 Little Rock, AR- *Titus, Allen, Stacy, Miriam, Heather, Heath- audit*
- class with be 4 days instead of 5, with instructors meeting to work on the NRM Gateway on Friday
- Jun 12-16 2017 Caesar Creek, OH- *Taylor, Allison, Heath, Heather, SWD and NAD new members audit*
- In 2017 shorten to 4 day class allowing full day to travel on Friday for students.

FY18 Prospect

- October 2017- St. Louis in fall
- Spring 2018: Potentially SAD at Carters with field trips to Alatoona at 45 minutes away and 1.5 hours to Lanier - **Miriam follow up** (Pittsburgh is the fallback option)

FY 17 Fall Meeting

- Libby Montana: November 14th-18th, Monday travel day- plan to be in Spokane by Monday at noon to drive to Libby
- Finalize Handshake selections at fall meeting
- Training by NWS staff on Economy Act agreements and Tribal partnerships

Handshake Program

- May have a decrease in total award money we are able to give out next year
- Consider lowering the max amount applicants can apply for to \$20,000
- Incentives: take out cooperating association bonus, add incentive for best primarily focused pollinator project -\$5000 bonus
- Replace the incentive point section for 70% partner donation with invasive species control and management incentive. 100 point bonus.
- Keep incentive for new applicants- raising points to 200 points.
- Replace Longevity/Sustainability to Longevity/O&M. Changed to weight of 3 (innovativeness down to 2)
- Quarterly reporting requirement on handshake funds to track FAD funding now occurring

Volunteer Coin –number of coins remaining in each MSC

- Allen- 6
- Allison- 4
- Taylor- 6
- Titus- 9
- Stacy- 8
- Heath- 7
- Miriam- 5

(All who were present were issued more coins by Marilyn Jones at the EIP ceremony)

National Volunteer Award Update

- Plaque: Remove division name from text, increase the font size of the recipient name, remove italics, next year have the vendor glue the coin in the plaque
- Require MSCs to pick their top 3 to send forward
- Eliminate non-national competition
- Awards Ceremony- Marilyn will attend on behalf of the Corps Foundation, closest PAC member to try to attend the ceremony in the future if it's within a reasonable distance

EIP

- Plaque: Remove division name, no italics, encourage corps foundation to simplify their logo to a version that can be put in to a workable format

Webinars/Partner Speakers

- COOP association webinar joint between Taylor and Corps Foundation
- Heath will be taking on partnering 101 in June
- Potential partners for webinars and action items
- Allison suggested work camper news and will follow up with POC
- Heath suggested wounded warriors nonprofit and will look in to POC
- Stacy will follow up with wounded warrior contact as well
- Titus transportation grant webinar POC Meredith Heather will follow up as well
- Taylor suggested Pollinator grants will follow up with Tara Whitsel. Heath will follow up with POC as well
- SCA once national agreement is open- Heather/Gary

USA Today Corps Edition

- This year's theme is volunteers and their benefit and services.
- Provide volunteers to interview – give them the volunteer winner for the year as well as the other nominees.

Wednesday April 6th, 2016

EIP award ceremony, partner demonstration, lunch, and partner site visits

Thursday April 7th, 2016

Recap of EIP Ceremony

Wins- Logistics, preparation, having the PAC team engage with the community, guests including district, HQ, commissioner, Corps Foundation, PAO, demonstration, other partners present

Improvements- Have recipient speak last, name tags for all, mention during the introduction who is in the room and from where to recognize how important it is to everyone to be there, thank all of the fire department and have them stand up, communication between who is giving the award commander-certificate and HQ- Plaque.

Follow up items: Heather will send thank you email. All team members load photos from the week on the Sharepoint site

WRRDA

- Partner section will lead to no new implementation
- Volunteer led to questions on legality of current practices with ASA- responses to questions have been sent back
- Cooperative agreement authority for enhancing rec opportunities where we can transfer funds to state tribal nonprofit local government with exclusion of for profit – guidance is in counsel in HQ- counsel thinks material is too broad
- Will need to be drafted in to ER's and EP's once implementation guidance comes out
- Cooperating association agreements need to be clarified in regulations and communication that they are not the same as cooperative agreements

National Conservation Corps Agreement

- 5 year agreement- first year trial in progress in Ft. Worth District
- Plan to open it up nationally in the fall with guidance for sending requests

Legends and Beacons

- 4 legends nominees
- 2 beacon nominees

Work plan update

- **Recruit for SWD and NAD prior to fall meeting**, have applications due by November 4th so the PAC team can discuss in fall meeting. Put out call for nominations October 1st. Considering the benefits of having one new member from field one new member from district.
- Gateway update – spend the last day of prospect working on updates and at fall meeting if time allows
- **All need to participate in their respective MSC update teleconferences**

ERs and EPs

- Worked on collectively until end of day
- **TO DO: send all notes to Heather made on the ER's & EP's**
- **Heather will consolidate notes and share back with the team**
- **Miriam and Stacy: work together on Cooperating Association chapters to suggest edits, any new wish list items, clarifications, etc.**

Next PAC call: May 6 @ 11:00 Eastern. **Allen will send out meeting request**